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ComReg Move Progresses FRIACO

ComReg has today confirmed that progress on introducing Flat Rate Internet Access (the wholesale product that will enable operators to provide an always-on internet service) is on schedule and has accepted the proposed rates that *eircom* may charge its wholesale customers for a FRIACO product. Flat rate access is scheduled to be available to retail consumers and business by 25 June 2003.

In a Decision Notice issued today, ComReg has set out what *eircom* may charge other operators for use of a wholesale FRIACO service. ComReg notes that these charges are amongst the lowest within Europe. The charges will be reviewed six months from now by which time the product will be on the retail market and more accurate cost information will be available.

In addition to the product charges, *eircom* has proposed process charges for this service some of which ComReg has revised. *eircom* has been directed to use charges calculated by ComReg.

Comreg commended the industry, particularly *eircom* and ESAT BT for their efforts in recent weeks in ensuring that the tight timetable for the development of FRIACO was observed. "Cooperation between all of us in keeping to schedule will enable companies and residential customers to have a competitive service which is available at a predictable cost" said **Etain Doyle**, Chairperson of ComReg.

ComReg directed *eircom* to facilitate the introduction of FRIACO in January 2003. The initial FRIACO service will be available for connection only at Primary switches in the *eircom* network.

ENDS

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